such as Shalimar festival, Qutub Festival and Garden Festival are also organised regularly.

Dissemination of Indian Culture Abroad

3020. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken, so far, by Government to disseminate the traditional and ancient art and culture of the country outside India; and

(b) the details of the NRIs who have come forward to enter into the venture of dissemination of culture abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Culture has been pursuing an active policy of bilateral cultural cooperation with other countries with the objective of renewing and strengthening cultural links and with a view to project India's Culture abroad. However, one of the objectives of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under Ministry of External Affairs' is to promote greater awareness of India's cultural heritage abroad. Towards this end, the Council has set up and maintains 14 cultural centres which are functioning under the overall policy guidelines of the Indian Missions in the respective countries.

(b) There are a number of NRIs and Indian Associations abroad who undertake dissemination of Indian culture at their own initiative, not necessarily involving our Missions abroad. Such details are not available with the Government.

Impact on tourism due to De-Freeze of LTC

3021. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic tourism has been adversely affected in view of freeze of LTC for Government employees; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to convince the Ministry of Personnel to de-freeze LTC for Government employees to boost tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has requested for restoration of LTC facility in the interest of encouraging growth of domestic tourism in the country.

Report of Indian Association of Tour Operators

3022. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Wiil the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleaded to state:

(a) whether Indian Association of Tour Operators has submitted a report on low tourist inflow; and

(b) if so, the details of their views and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Department of Tourism keeps a continuous interaction with various Indian Tourism Industry Associations including Indian Association of Tour Operators for strengthening *inter alia* the marketing efforts to promote India as an attractive tourist destination in the major tourist generating markets. To attract more foreign tourists the Government has taken numerous steps such as promotion of tourist charters, organising familiarisation tours for Tour Operators/Travel Agents/members of print and electronic media, enhanced use of information technology, participation at the inportant Tourism, organising exhibitions like WTM, ITB etc.

Special Economic Packages for Tourist Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

3023. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism is the only key industry in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether terrorism has completely destroyed tourism in Jammu and Kashmir;